

What do you do about faith at home?

Faith in the Nexus - Animation & Discussion on Faith at Home

Questions for discussion for children, parents, schools & churches

How to watch and discuss

When you use this animation as a stimulus for discussion, be aware that there are opportunities for people to disclose in a personal way that may require some care and sensitivity. How you introduce the animation will depend on your gauging how well the group knows each other and the extent to which they are likely to trust each other.

Watch the animation first (in class, as a group of parents, in a school INSET session or church group) without any comment. Then watch it again, asking the group to note down the children's words that seem particularly important to them. You may suggest they first make a word cloud on their own, or, if you do the exercise as a group, a mind map may help explore the deeper meanings of the words in a free discussion. Use the following questions to explore these words.

For each group, a pair of Year 5/6 children's quotes from the animation introduces the topic, followed by questions (or a task) relevant to each of the audiences – children, parents & school/church.

Scan or tap to watch
the animation
bit.ly/nexus-005



What does it feel like to encounter faith at home? Or What does faith look like at home?

"If we go on a trip in the car, like a trip longer than an hour or two, we always pray to have a safe journey."

"My nan, she believes in God a lot, so every time there's something going on at church, she always encourages me and my brother to go. I like that about her, how she encourages me to like God more. And she makes me think about what I've taken for granted and what I don't actually think about, like saying thank you for everything that's made in this world . . . She always makes me feel like I'm allowed to breathe and always be free."

Children

- a. Who are you most likely to talk to at home about God and faith?
(Task for the group with teacher/leader: Draw a mind map on the board or a large piece of paper with this question in a circle in the middle.)
Mention one or more people for the teacher/leader to write on one side of the circle.
- b. What is it about that person that might make you want to talk with them about faith?
On the other side of the circle write down the qualities or characteristics (use single adjectives if possible) of that person or those people.
- c. Talk about each quality in turn. Which do you feel also describes what you are like?

Parents

Read the passage above about the child's nan.

"So, it's not all about the praying, it's about understanding the Bible stories and the meaning of them. And sometimes it's quite nice not just to pray but to have a holy sabbath day and just to connect with your family and friends and just have holy time with them and like to do different things to celebrate your religion."

"I just like it to just have a moment to myself, and just let me ... think about all the things that have happened and let everything leave me and just think about what's happening at that moment."

- a. Some of the children we spoke to enjoyed speaking at length about their experience of faith at home. To what extent do their comments chime with your experience as a parent?
- b. What conditions do you try to create to encourage children to grow in their faith in God?

School/Church

"She always makes me feel like I'm allowed to breathe and always be free."

"If you grow up in a family that doesn't believe in God it's more likely you won't."

Individual teachers/support staff:

- a. What conditions do you try to create in your classroom to encourage children to grow in their faith in God?
To what extent are parents/carers welcomed to get involved?

School & Church leaders:

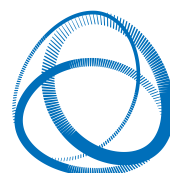
- b. On a strategic level, how are parents/carers involved in helping to create those conditions that encourage children to grow in their faith in God?
- c. To what extent do school policies and their practice reflect an environment where the growth of children's faith is central? Start with Discipline, Pedagogy, Homework...

Finally: What Next?

How might you use this animation and discussion to change, improve, adapt, or strengthen what you currently do in class and school, at home and in church?

Authored by Mr Nick Taunt 2024

National Institute For
Christian Education Research
Canterbury Christ Church University
nicer@canterbury.ac.uk
www.nicer.org.uk



**Canterbury
Christ Church
University**